



Obama Holds MLK Students at Rapt Attention

"You cannot drop out of school and just drop into a good job, do your homework."



Above: Students at Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School listen to President Barack Obama's speech Tuesday. Bottom, left: Adrianna King (left) and Tamara J. Brooks. Bottom, right, from left to right: Teacher Charlena Nia, Janice Gaytan (4th grade), Principal Roma Groves, Reginae Hightower (4th grade), Frederick Lakes (5th grade) and Yusef Ali (5th grade). Photos by Gene Hazzard. Go to www.postnewsgroup.net or www.whitehouse.gov to read President's speech.

Overcomers With Hope Teach Youth Video Production



De'janae Bates, a senior at Oakland's Mandela High School learning digital video technology and is preparing for college.

By Post Staff
Part 6 of Series

De'janae Bates, a senior at Oakland's Mandela High School, has worked this summer at Overcomers with Hope 2nd Chance in West Oakland, where she is learning digital video technology and is preparing for college.

With the help of one of the

Stimulus Funds at Work in Oakland

program's college counselors, she is applying for scholarships. "My goal is to become a pediatric nurse," she said. "I want to support kids' health care and give back to the community."

"This program has shown me how to overcome my fears and that everyone can do media if they just put their minds to it," De'janae said.

De'janae is among 27 youth who have worked this summer at Overcomers with Hope, which partnered with the Scotlan Youth and Family Center to provide local youth with paying jobs supported by federal stimulus funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and overseen by the Workforce Investment Board (WIB).

This year's summer jobs program has provided work for nearly 1,100 Oakland youth, ages 14 to 24. Overcomers with Hope is one of the 13 organizations selected to be part of the program by the WIB, which is composed of local, business, labor, education and community leaders. The Oakland Private Industry Council has administered the program on behalf of the WIB.

Overcomers was founded in 2006 by Bishop James Watkins, executive director of the organization and pastor of the Jack London Square Chapel in Oakland. The goal of the group is to train young people from underserved communities in the digital media arts, helping them to express their creativity, explore career options and find positive ways to contribute to their neighborhoods and society in general.

In the program, students engage in a year-round schedule of basic and advanced technology training, producing group and individual media projects. The young people learn to use professional level video cameras, interviewing techniques, scripting writing and story boarding, lighting techniques and use of a sound board.

While some of the teachers like Ms. Nicholas are educators, others work in media careers. "My teachers are local producers and directors, professionals in the field," he said.

The program also deals with the academic, personal and social challenges that the young people are facing, Bishop Wat-



Bishop James Watkins

kins said. "It's a life skills program. You have to get to what is going on in their lives. (The problem is that) nobody talks to them and nobody listens."

Up to now, the organization has been operating with donations from Bishop Watkins's church but is now beginning to seek grants. Sometimes, the funding has "gotten pretty skinny," he said.

Professional media equipment has been donated by individuals and media organizations, including Don Sharp and Don McKinney, both at KPIX Channel 5; Mind Seed Studios; Bill Gillise, owner of Largent Video; and Adrienne Electronics Corporation. Other partners include Youth Radio, Covenant House of California and UNIA (formally known as Jubilee West).

For more information on Overcomers with Hope, go to <http://overcomerswithhope.com> or call (510) 89a3-5103.

Miracle at Skyline



Miracle Chavis, Post Intern, recently left the Post to attend Skyline High School. Chavis graduated from Frick Middle School where she was a cheerleader; her favorite subject was Math.

We, at the Post, will remember her as a "Miracle" and will miss her many significant contributions to our work.

Flu Hospitalizes More Blacks and Hispanics

By Mike Stobbe
AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA (AP) -- Swine flu is four times more likely to send blacks and Hispanics to the hospital than whites, according to a study in Chicago that offers one of the first looks at how the virus has affected different racial groups.

The report echoes some unpublished information from Boston that found three out of four Bostonians hospitalized from swine flu were black or Hispanic.



Dr. Daniel Jernigan

The cause for the difference is probably not genetic, health officials said. More likely, it's

because blacks and Hispanics suffer disproportionately from asthma, diabetes and other health problems that make people more vulnerable to the flu.

It's not clear if a racial or ethnic difference will hold up when more complete national data is available, one federal health official said. The findings are based on fairly small numbers of cases from the early days of the pandemic.

"We don't have anything definitive to say whether one group is more affected than another," said Dr. Daniel Jernigan

of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Chicago findings, released last week, are believed to be the first published study to detail a racial or ethnic breakdown of swine flu's impact.

Researchers looked at more than 1,500 lab-confirmed swine flu cases reported to the Chicago Department of Public Health from late April through late July.

Blacks with swine flu were hospitalized at a rate of 9 per

Continued on page 10

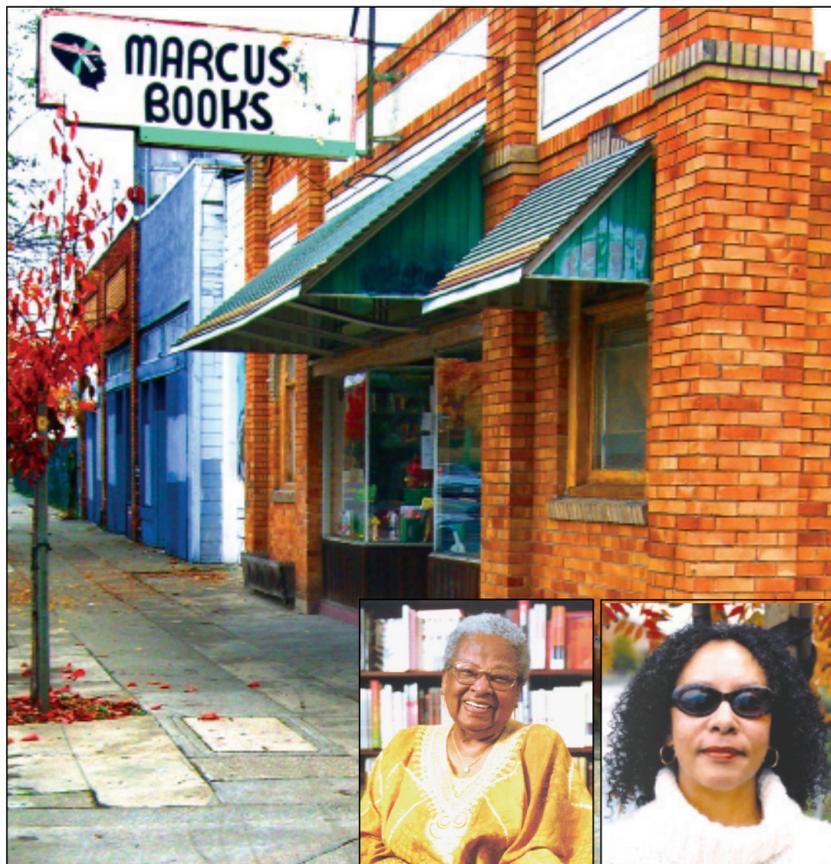
Marcus Books, America's Oldest at 49



By Lee Hildebrand

Marcus Books, the oldest black bookstore in the U.S., marks its 49th anniversary next month. Dr. Raye Richardson and her husband, the late Dr. Julian Richardson, opened their first store at 1712 Fillmore Street in San Francisco in October 1960 and a second store at 3900 Martin Luther King Jr. Way in Oakland in 1976.

Like most other independent bookstores faced with competition from chains like Barnes & Noble and Borders, as well as from Amazon.com, business has been in a slump of late, having dropped by 60 percent since 2004. It's gone "down, down, down" during that period, "this year being the worst of the five," says Blanche Richardson, who handles of the two stores' business affairs for her mother Raye, who at 89 remains the sole owner. The business is very much a family affair, with Blanche's brother Billy and daughter Cherysse working in the Oakland store and her sister Faye and niece Tamiko in San Francisco, along



Marcus Books, located at 3800 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way (near MacArthur BART Station) in Oakland is now the country's oldest Black-owned bookstore. Dr. Raye Richardson and Julian Richardson, her late husband co-founded the bookstore in San Francisco. Inset: Dr. Raye Richardson (left) and her daughter Blanche Richardson (manager). Photo by Gene Hazzard.

Continued on page 10